

# The Newhall Press

First Presbyterian Church  
24317 N. Newhall Avenue  
Newhall, California 91321-2721

Return Service Requested

## MAY 2015



### Sunday Worship Services

Traditional Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Contemporary Worship 10:45 a.m.



**Deadline**  
for the  
**June Newsletter:**  
**May 17, 2015**

Thank you for your articles and  
input to the newsletter.

Editor: Kathy Bressler- Please text comments & corrections to 818-720-1017.

Special thanks to Ellie and Steve Fuller, who faithfully prepare newsletter for mailing.

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### The Newhall Press

First Presbyterian Church of Newhall  
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Newhall, CA 91321-2721

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Web Site: <http://www.presby-newhall.org>

Pastor: Bill Barnes (x102)  
Pastoral Support: Phil Aijian (x106)  
Dir. Christian Educ.: Sarah Bolin (x104)  
Assoc. Children's Dir: Lelia Meadows  
Assoc. Youth Dir: Ian Fletcher  
Office Administrator: Sandy McIntosh (x101)  
Music Conductor: Connie Woodson  
2nd Service Worship Leader: Sam Besse  
Treasurer: Dorothy Ng (x107)  
Custodian: Nelson Orellana  
Groundskeeper: Steve Fuller  
Nursery Care Provider: Linda Weingarten  
**Little Shepherd's Nursery School**  
(661) 254-2312

May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### May Events:

#### YOUTH-LED SERVICE\*

May 3 9 & 10:45 AM

#### PAD THAI COOKING CLASS (L.A.)\*

May 3 4:00 PM

#### ArtSLAM (Youth)\*

May 7 6 to 10 PM

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TEA\*

May 9

#### MOTHER'S DAY

May 10

#### JERSEY MIKE'S FUNDRAISER\*

May 12 11 AM-10 PM

#### CHILD-LED SERVICE & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON\*

May 17 9 & 10:45 AM

#### CHURCH 124th BIRTHDAY & ICE CREAM SOCIAL (One Service)\*

May 31 10:00 AM

### Recurring Church Events:

#### BAND REHEARSAL

Thursdays 6:00 PM

#### BOOK BUDDIES\*

2nd Thursdays 4:00 PM

#### CHOIR REHEARSAL

Thursdays 7:30 PM

#### COMMUNION

1st Sundays 9, 10:45 AM

#### HANDCRAFTERS\*

2nd & 4th Tues. 10:00 AM

#### LADIES' NIGHT OUT\*

Last Tuesdays 6:30 PM

#### MEN AT WORK\*

3rd Saturdays 8:00 AM

#### MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY\*

Fridays 11:00 AM

#### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES\*

See List Page 8

#### RECYCLING (For Camp Scholarships)

1st Sundays

#### RING TONES REHEARSAL

Sundays 2:00 PM

#### STANDING TOGETHER

2nd Wednesdays 7:00 PM

#### TGIF (Children's Program)

Fridays 6:00 PM

#### YOUTH GROUP\*

Sundays 6:00 PM

*\*Additional info. in newsletter  
Calendar Continued on Page 2*

# THE NEWHALL PRESS



## PASTOR'S COLUMN

As you may recall from some of my past sermons on the architecture of our church, the two main stained glass windows are called the Christ Window (east) and the Church Window (west). Each has a number of symbols from church history representing respectively, Jesus our Lord and symbols used to describe the church. On the right side of the church window (looking at it) taking up much of the window, you can make out a simple single mast sailing boat.

One of the earliest symbols for the church was a boat, scratched out with a few simple lines: a hull and a cross for a mast. Centuries later, the middle section of the sanctuary (where the congregation sits) was designated the nave, from the Latin word *navis* meaning "ship." Glance up at the great Gothic ceiling high above and you'll see it resembles the bottom of an inverted ship or boat.

It may come as no surprise that the church has been likened to Noah's Ark, because, as Frederick Buechner points out, both have "just about everything imaginable on board, the clean and the unclean both..." resulting in, um, messes everywhere. And yet, *"even at its worst, there's at least one thing that makes it bearable within, and that is the storm without..."*

I recall the 14<sup>th</sup> Century saint, Catherine of Sienna, who in the last years of her life had a dream (or was it a nightmare!?) where the church-boat (a huge ship) landed on her shoulder! Is it any surprise that the brilliant, irenic, and deeply spiritual Catherine woke up paralyzed, and died a few months later? She remains the patron saint for all who feel crushed by the weighty burden of the church. Even still, it is not on our shoulders. We are carried.

In Mark's Gospel, chapter 6, when the disciples get in the boat (and later in the book of Acts, as they start the fledgling church) they find it to be...both a place of testing and fear, and a place of safety and protection from the storm.

One last thing to note about the artist's rendition of the sailing boat represented in the Church Window. This was a point that former Pastor Bob Bingham pointed out to me one day early on in my ministry here. As you gaze at the boat, you can't really tell if it's sailing into the sanctuary, or sailing away into the world. We gather in the boat for fellowship, teaching, and encouragement so that we can sail courageously into the world with the message of love and Kingdom of God.

Sail on! And may fair winds guide you far!

Pastor Bill

(note: Thanks to Fredrick Buechner and Rev. Heidi Husted for insightful comments)



May 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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**Leadership Meetings:**

**ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

**BUILDING & GROUNDS COM.**

1st Mondays 7:00 PM

**CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE**

1st Tuesdays 7:00 PM

**CHURCH LIFE COMMITTEE**

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

**DEACONS**

1st Mondays 7:00 PM

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

1st Mondays 7:00 PM

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE\***

2nd Thursdays 7:00 PM

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

1st Fridays 8:00 AM

**SESSION**

3rd Tuesdays 7:00 PM

**STEPHEN MINISTRY**

4th Wed. Leaders 5:30 PM

Ed. 6:30 PM

Groups 8:00 PM

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

2nd Tuesdays 7:00 PM

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

1st Tuesdays 7:00 PM

**YOUTH COMMITTEE**

1st Wednesdays 7:00 PM

**Upcoming Events:**

**NEW MEMBERS' CLASS\***

June 7 & 14

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL\***

June 22-26

**NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE\***

Starts July 5

**SUMMER CAMP\*—4th to 6th Graders**

July 9-24

\* *Additional info. in newsletter*



Please remember that the church office is closed every Friday.



The Church Life Committee promotes fellowship and fun activities for the church family by providing a variety of church, community, cultural and special events throughout the year.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS - OVER-80S**

May 6 Jim Didrickson  
May 25 Richard Kost  
May 26 Ed Bolden

**LADIES' NIGHT OUT**

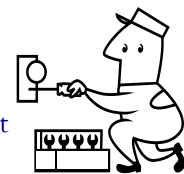
May 26th at La Cocina, 28076 Bouquet Canyon Rd. (Cross street is Plum Canyon.)

**MEN AT WORK**

Next meeting: Saturday, May 16, 2015

Join the men of the church on the third Saturday of each month at 8:00 am for breakfast and a time of fellowship.

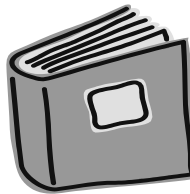
Each month there will either be a guest speaker or a project at the church or in the community.



**BOOK BUDDIES**

'Mrs. Poe' by Lynn Cullen will be discussed at the Thursday, May 14th Book Buddies 4:00 meeting. This is historical fiction about Edgar Allan Poe's mistress's confession and his wife's obsession.

Pam Trammell is our hostess for the discussion and salad supper. RSVP to Pam 661-255-1727. Address: 22254 Oxford Lane, Santa Clarita.



**HANDCRAFTERS**

Every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month (May 12 & 26), at 10am, people gather in the Evans Room to share their skills, their interests, their accomplishments. We are the handcrafters, and everyone is welcome!



**FRIDAY MIDDAY BIBLE STUDY**

We have had an exciting year beginning with the Book of Acts and the Gospel of Luke. In May and June we are going to discover the wonder of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Using the book, *The Holy Spirit, An Introduction* by John Bevere we are going to explore how important the Holy Spirit is to us as we allow Him to lead us through our days. Come and join the fun from 11:00 to 1:00 on Fridays. Enjoy the fellowship and the learning experience we all share.



Cont. from P. 10

- **Narrative:** This is the most basic genre. It is where the author is describing events. This is the genre of books like Genesis, Exodus, Joshua, Ruth, Esther, Acts and other passages where there is a story being told. Treat it as a story. Find out what is going on, who the main characters are and why things are happening the way they are. What message is the author trying to get to us? Treat the entire bible (66 books) as one great big story composed of a whole bunch of smaller stories that all fit together. One part of scripture should never be understood without reference to the entire sweep and scope of all of scripture. **I can prove any point I want to make by pointing to some isolated phrase from the bible taken out of context:** "After he left Hebron, David took more concubines and wives in Jerusalem." 2 Samuel 5:13 and "God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart.'" Acts 13:22. You think that's gonna cut it with my wife of 41 years? Or, more importantly, with God? "But God, you said....." Passages from Genesis, Leviticus, Psalms, Ephesians, Colossians, Titus, and 1 Peter have all been used (abused) by proof-texters to justify human bondage. ("Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ." Ephesians 6:5 Slave owners and pro-slavery pastors used this passage to justify the African slave trade up until the 19th century. Titus 2:9 was similarly popular, proclaiming, "Teach slaves to be subject to their masters in everything, to try to please them, not to talk back to them.") Other carefully selected verses have been wrenched out of their proper context within the greater story of God's great plan to restore all of creation and have Love wipe away every tear (Revelation 21) to justify bans on inter-racial marriage, the subjugation of women, murder, genocide, (Adolf Hitler, on 26 June 1934, said to Catholic bishops: "The National Socialist State professes its allegiance to positive Christianity. It will be its honest endeavor to protect the great Christian Confessions...") and child abuse ("Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them." Proverbs 13:24)—among others. The bible is never wrong. Our interpretations often are.



The Outreach Committee is called by our Heavenly Father to extend the hospitality that we find in our fellowship to the community, to visitors, and to new members, in order to draw them into the family of Christian faith at First Presbyterian Church.

**Announcing a New Members Class this June**

One of the distinctive characteristics of Christian faith is that it is *shared*...in community in the company of others. In Matt 18:20 Jesus states, "for where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them". Paul described the church as the "Body of Christ". No one person is the whole body; each is a part. We need each other's gifts to complement our own. Membership means we are all necessary parts of the whole.

The next new members' class will be June 7<sup>th</sup> and June 14<sup>th</sup> with installation and a luncheon on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The classes are informal and led by Pastor Bill. Any and all questions are encouraged. New members will be invited to the Session meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> to see how the business of running this church is accomplished and also to meet with the Elders. There is no obligation to become a member, but if you choose to, you will be received into this family of faith.

If you are not a member yet and want to be a part of this caring church family of faith, please contact the Outreach Committee chairperson John Favalessa (661) 755-4269 (email: [favalessa@yahoo.com](mailto:favalessa@yahoo.com)) or Sandy McIntosh in the church office (661) 259-0555 (email: [churchoffice@presby-newhall.org](mailto:churchoffice@presby-newhall.org)).





The Adult Education Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall encourages the congregation to mature in their knowledge and practice of their Christian faith as disciples of Jesus Christ both personally and in community with other believers.

## How to Read the Bible: *By Understanding the Biblical Genres and Rhetorical Devices Used In the Bible* by Roland Wrinkle

**HERE'S THE KEY:** Look for the Intended Meaning—We All Know What the Words (Translated from Ancient Languages by Others) SAY, But What Do They MEAN?

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” 2 Timothy 3:16. God chose, for what I assume to be pretty good reasons, to use humans to express His eternal truths through scripture. Therefore, we need to figure out where the human author was coming from. (See? Right there. If someone was reading that last sentence a hundred years from now and failed to appreciate the 21<sup>st</sup> century American idiom, “was coming from,” she’d think I was referring to the hometown of the author instead of gleaning intent.) In order to understand any particular passage in scripture, we first need to appreciate the genre of literature, rhetorical device or idiom being used. To read all of scripture literally, while ignoring the genre or rhetorical device, will lead to missing the author’s intent, i.e. what he was trying to say. (None of our bibles can be read literally anyway because the bible was not written in English and someone besides us has to translate it all for us unless we can read ancient Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.) For example, “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away...” from Matt 5 is to be taken very seriously but not literally—it is an example of the use of hyperbole. The meaning: It is sinful and destructive to lust.

Would you read a poem the same way you would read the account of a historical event? Or read a prophecy as you would a proverb? A song as a gospel?

Now, here’s a sampling of some of the various genres used by the authors of the Old and New Testaments:

- **Idioms or Figures Of Speech:** This refers to a manner of speaking that is natural to native speakers of a language. Here’s some modern idioms we use: *A hot potato* (Speak of an issue which many people are talking about and which is usually disputed); *A penny for your thoughts* (A way of asking what someone is thinking [unless we’re referring to Bill’s mother whose name is Penny.]); *An arm and a leg* (Very expensive or costly.); *Ball is in your court* (It is up to you to make the next decision or step); *To hear something straight from the horse’s mouth* (To hear something from the authoritative source.) ; or *Whole nine yards* (Everything. All of it.)

You confidently know what the speaker SAYS but you’ll never figure out what he or she MEANS without first understanding the idioms used. Get it? Meaning versus saying.

Now here’s some idioms used in the bible which will lead to misunderstanding if we don’t know they are idioms: *Flowing with milk and honey* (Fertile); *Soul* (Person); *Close hand* (Selfish); *Heart* (Mind); *Covered his feet* (Relieved himself); *House* (Nation); *Knew no quiet in their bellies* (Greedy); *Hearts and kidneys* (Thoughts and emotions); *Right hand* (Might); *Son of Man* (this one’s very controversial and I have my thoughts, but , as usual, I stay away from controversy). That last wise crack by me is an example of **Irony**.

- **Hyperbole:** An exaggeration to make or reinforce a point. Jesus loved to get some of His points across by hyperbole: “...it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” (The camel ain’t never going to make it but a rich man can. It’s just that it’s really, really difficult for anyone who has made an idol out of treasure to bow to King Jesus, give up his advantages and serve the poor); “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple.” (This is clearly not to be taken literally, as Jesus Himself spoke of responsibility to obey the 6th commandment (Mark 7:9-13), and cared for his own mother. Rather, Jesus is emphasizing some uncomfortable priorities. Do you really put God and his Kingdom above, and give priority to Him over and above, your own family? I struggle with this. Do you?).

Cont. on P. 11

# SPRING YARD SALE!

Twice a year lots of hard work goes into producing a two-day Church Yard Sale. This is a worthwhile cause to raise funds and provide community service. On April 10th and 11th coordinators Rod and Candy Belcher were joined by many helping hands from church members, Boy Scouts and even community members at large. Many church members donated enticing items to be sold. They raised approximately \$1,900. Special thanks to Rod and Candy who have been faithfully leading this event for many years.



Sharie Telles, Elder of Church Life



Carol Ramnarine, Elder of Church Life



## CHURCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL—May 31

This event is brought to you by your Church Life committee and your Deacons. Also we welcome Little Shepherd's Nursery School's participation with an Open House!

Fun Fact: Did you know: The original wooden chapel opened on May 31, 1891!

It's our birthday....year 124....let's celebrate!

Church Life will be cooking up pulled pork once again for this event; we are asking for your help with the sides.

If you last name begins with:

A-E please bring a salad.

F-M please bring a side dish or vegetable.

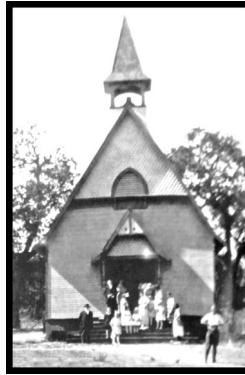
N-Z please bring small rolls/sliders (some of these will be used with the pulled pork).

Church Life will provide the cake, and the Deacons will have ice cream for everyone!!

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to sit on (some tables and chairs will be provided).

There will be one church service on May 31 at 10am with the celebration following from 11:30am-2pm

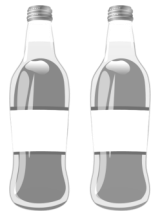
Come join us for food, fellowship, games and fun as we celebrate year 124.





The Youth Committee nurtures the Junior High and Senior High-aged youth as well as the college-aged young adults of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, and the community; by providing a Christ-centered program of worship, education, fellowship, and service in order to equip them with a framework in which they can realize their spiritual gifts and live a Christian life.

Come visit the Youth Group at the City of Santa Clarita's  
**ArtSLAM**  
 Thursday May 7th, 6:00 - 10:00 pm  
 Main Street in Newhall - Near Metro PCS Store  
 Local Artists, Live Music & Dance, Food Trucks, Family Fun  
 The Youth will lead an Interactive Art Exhibit  
 Come buy a bottle of water and support our Youth Group events.  
 Let's show Santa Clarita what an awesome Church Family we have!  
 The Youth will participate in ArtSLAM the first Thursday  
 of every month through October.  
 Mark your calendars now:  
 June 4, July 2, Aug 6, Sept 3, Oct 1



The purpose of The Mission Committee, in order to further share the gospel of Jesus Christ, is to responsibly use the resources of First Presbyterian Church of Newhall, wherever we find a neighbor in need. We are committed to meeting mission needs in our local community, across the nation, and globally, by sending money, food, clothing, volunteers, or whatever else is needed.

## WHAT I WANT FOR MY SON by Michelle Jarvie-Eggart

— Presbyterians Today Magazine, April 2015

When we (husband and I) moved to Marquette, Michigan, I started my usual church shopping. I went to First Presbyterian and felt I had found my home. The people were so welcoming and warm. The minister had a Scripture-focused approach. I enjoyed his lessons on the Greek and Hebrew meaning of words. He also was flamboyantly passionate in his sermons in a way that made me a little uncomfortable. Pastor Nick wasn't raised Presbyterian, and it showed. He called us "brothers" and "sisters." He raised his voice in sermons, turning a little purple as he bellowed. And he asked us to write a mission statement for our son's baptism.

I called my father and sister to tell them about it. They laughed with me. How evangelical it felt. Stoic Presbyterians, we said, don't write mission statements for their children. They certainly don't read them aloud in church. After we finished making fun of it, I sat down to write. I figured I would just write, "Love God; do good." But then I thought about the kind of Christian I want my son to be.

I thought about all the good and the bad that can come in the name of religion. I want my son to have a faith that weathers questioning, a faith that deepens with doubt, that leaves room for him to change his mind and opens his heart to the inclusive message of love we hear in Jesus' teachings. I began to understand why Nick wanted us to write a mission statement. It helped us define what we think it means to be Christian. I valued the gift I was giving my son, raising him in the Reformed tradition, where we are taught to question, seek justice, and be open to change.

This is what we wrote: *Out mission to raise a man who follows Christ's example of inclusive love toward all. We will show you how to be gentle and kind. We will teach you that forgiveness is a gift to the receiver and the giver. We will stop with you to stand in wonder at the beauty of creation. We will encourage questions of faith, guiding you beyond a literal understanding of Scripture. We will teach you that God is love, and that when we help and accept each other, we move closer to God. We will count our blessings with you, showing you how to be grateful. We will teach you that God doesn't promise us an easy life, but through Christ, shows us the way to truly live. We will admit our doubts, so that you may see how hope can allow doubt and faith to coexist. And we will raise you in a community of believers, so that you may be inspired by others to be a disciple of Christ.*

Both our parents and siblings had traveled a long way for my son's baptism. Two of my aunts even surprised me with a special visit. As I read our mission statement, I looked out on my family and our congregation. I realized that teaching a child love and kindness is no easy task. I thought back to the church I was raised in and how they became an extended family, guiding me through the rough waters of my youth. I suddenly understood the importance of community. I looked out at the people who will be the voice of faith and conscience when our son gets old enough to think we know nothing. I was grateful for every one of them.



The Adult Education Committee at First Presbyterian Church of Newhall encourages the congregation to mature in their knowledge and practice of their Christian faith as disciples of Jesus Christ both personally and in community with other believers.

## THANKS FROM FAMILY TABLE!!

The Lenten Family Table dinners were a dream of Rebecca Cranert and Jack Irwin but required the hard work of the Adult Education committee and many others. We would like to especially thank Barbara Ave Maria, Val Boss, Terri DeYoung and Nancy Spigelman, who worked tirelessly in the kitchen; the Cranert family (Terry, Christian, Alex and Jenny) for all their help in setup and cleanup; Bill Barnes, Sarah Bolin, James Allison, and the Youth Group for their work on the Lenten Skits; Connie Woodson for



## Adult Education – Spring Life Academy

Spring Life Academy is continuing through the middle of May. Here are some awesome events still coming up:

**\*Pad Thai Cooking Class:** Cooking Right for Nutrition, Val Boss, professional caterer, will provide the instruction and ingredients to cook this recipe which is Gluten Free, Sugar Free and full of flavor. **May 3** in the Fellowship Hall/Kitchen (Pre-registration and \$10 fee required)

**\*Passages, A Museum on the Bible:** In cooperation with Adult Ed, Church Life, and Outreach we are sponsoring a trip to this museum located in the old OSH store – for more information go to ExplorePassages.com. We also have reserved seating at Presidente restaurant for dinner (26625 Bouquet Canyon Road, Saugus, 91350). You will be responsible for your own dinner and drinks. **May 17 at 3:30** - (Pre-registration and museum entry fee required)

**Miracles: Real or Unreal:** This book study group on **Miracles**, a new book by Eric Metaxas, meets at Jack and Barbara Irwin's home. Please call (661) 296-4135 if you are interested in attending and for directions. **Tuesday evenings, through May 19.**

**The Alpha Course:** We are enjoying this very popular Alpha Program which begins with dinner followed by a short DVD on the basics of Christian faith and an open discussion in a friendly group setting. It is held at John and Jung Favalessa's home, please call (661) 255-3263 if you are interested in joining us. One session left in May: **Wednesday evening – May 13.** (We aren't meeting on May 6th.)

**Faith Talk on the Patio:** Gather on the patio benches every Sunday at 8:30 am for a wide-ranging and stimulating discussion led by Roland Wrinkle.

\*Call Anne Watts at (661) 252-6420 if you would like to attend a class requiring pre-registration.

Presbyterian Women, as forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit ourselves: To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the Church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's Kingdom.



## Annual Presbyterian Women's Tea—May 9th



Presbyterian Women will gather for our yearly PW Tea. It will be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday May 9, 2015. This year's theme is "Love yourself/Love Others".

## Mission in the Workplace by Sonja Tweedie

At the beginning of the year PW chose to focus on Mission - in our hearts, our homes, the workplace, in the church and in the world. We have included articles relating to our hearts, homes and world, so May's emphasis will be "mission in the workplace."

In our circles, there are women who work in a variety of careers: teachers, dental assistants, nurses, insurance saleswomen, clerks in various shops, secretaries, lawyers and other professions.

We rarely think of our classrooms or offices as places of mission. Yet, how many of us have been asked by our companies or school districts to contribute to the United Way campaign or asked by fellow workers to support their Run for Breast Cancer? Some of you may have come in contact with clients, patients or students - or even a fellow worker who really needed your help. I recall a year when the family of one of the students in my school lost their home when it burned to the ground; the family had nothing left. It was amazing to see how the faculty and the entire student body took the family under our wing and provided housing, clothing, food and money to help them get back on their feet.

Have you not had occasion to comfort a fellow worker who was having a bad day or who had lost someone special to them or who had just dealt with a disgruntled customer? Showing love and concern for others can be exhibited in all areas of our lives. I know that nurses, doctors, teachers, customer service representatives, pastors and others show this daily as they work with the public. People who work in restaurants, department stores and libraries show kindness to others daily as well.

Mission is showing love and kindness in many ways - wherever the need, wherever we are - just as Jesus taught us. So show these characteristics of mission as you go through your work day; you will have lots of opportunities. Be open to them!



### PW CIRCLES—ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

**Elizabeth:** Stephanie Linn (259-3914) - Meets first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10:30 a.m. in the Evans Room. Babysitting is provided.

**Lois:** Florence Craig (255-1389) - Meets second Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

**Lydia:** Cathy Johnson (263-7193) - Meets first Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Evans Room.

**Mary Martha:** Nancy Spigelman (254-0319) & Sam Spigelman (312-7111) - Meets second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in various homes.

**Rachel:** Tiffany Aune (478-2056) - Meets second Tuesday of the month at 6:15 p.m. in various homes and shares a salad dinner.



The Children's Ministry Committee at First Presbyterian Church will invite children to EMBRACE the Word of God through worship, games, songs, and other activities; ENCOURAGE their spiritual growth to become closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ; and EQUIP them to go out into the world and share God's love.

### VBS IS ALMOST HERE!

June 22-26 is our church's summer **Vacation Bible School (Explore Mt. Everest)** from 9:00 am til 12:30 pm on Monday through Friday. It is going to be jam-packed full of songs, skits, Bible adventures, and FUN!

Registration will begin mid May on the patio at church on Sundays. The cost for each participant is \$30 for the week if registered by June 21, 2015. Registration costs go up to \$50 after June 21, so be sure to register early. If you refer a friend (non-active family at our VBS in the past) and they sign up, you will get a 50% discount on your child's fee, so tell your friends and neighbors!

We also need donations and volunteers. If you are free for all or part of the time during this week we would love to have you help at VBS. There is a place for everyone willing to serve. You must be at least an incoming 7th grader to be a volunteer.

If you would also like to help financially you can visit **Jersey Mike's** on May 12th from 11am through 10pm in Saugus (Bouquet Canyon Road) or in Stevenson Ranch (The Old Road). All you need to do is bring a flier from the church bulletin and have a sandwich or two. Our VBS will benefit from the proceeds. But maybe you want to help and you do not like sandwiches; well then sign up on the patio during VBS registration for items you can donate. We will have a list of all the items that we need and the dates we will need them. There are ways to volunteer even if you are unable to be at our VBS program. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve our little ones, and we thank you for helping us make our Everest VBS a HUGE success.

### VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AND CHILDREN-LED SUNDAY:

May 17th is just around the corner and we want your family to be a part of our **children-led worship services**. There will be songs, reading parts, announcements- all kinds of ways for your preschooler through 6th grader to be involved. We will be practicing from 11am til 1pm on Saturday May 15th in the sanctuary. Please let Ms. Sarah know if your child would like to participate. After the service is over, Children's Ministry will be hosting the **Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon**. We will have appetizers and a lasagna main course. Appetizers will be served at 12:15 and lunch will follow after. If you have been involved in our ministry in some way this year we want you to join us for lunch in Fellowship Hall. Our ministry runs because of wonderful volunteers like you and we want to say THANK YOU! If you would like to attend the lunch please let Mrs. Lelia or Ms. Sarah know by May 10th. We hope that you will be able to join us.

### SUMMER CAMP:

Incoming 4th through 6th graders! **Summer camp** is July 19th through the 24th. The price is still being determined but the fun is a definite! Let Ms. Sarah know ASAP if you are interested in going. We will get out more details as soon as possible. Be on the look out- I hear it's going to be an ADVENTURE!



Our children presented the Palm Sunday Story on March 29th



The Worship Committee will strive with God's guidance and grace, to create Christ-centered worship experiences, inspiring God's people as they respond to the word proclaimed in prayer, song, scripture, sacrament and message.

Worship

### The *Real* Reason We Go (Or Don't Go) To Church by Sonja Tweedie

Why do we go to church? Ask this question of a young child, a teenager, a college student, a recently married couple or parents of young children. The range of answers will amaze you.

Young children have interesting and very honest answers. "I like the Sunday school teacher." "I like to sing the songs and hear Bible stories." "My mommy and daddy take me." "VBS is really cool!" The teenager chimes in with "My friends go there." I love our youth group." "Church camp is so much fun." "We have pool parties in the summer." "I enjoy the mission trips to help others."


A college student might respond with "My world civ professor has me questioning my beliefs." "Too much studying to do; no time for church." "Most of my friends aren't attending church." or "I go because my parents always call and ask me what the sermon was about."


So far we have not heard the word "worship." The newlywed might say, "My husband likes to play golf on Sunday and we generally go skiing in the winter." "I used to go but my spouse is not interested and I don't want to go alone." "We have met some really nice young couples there." "We enjoy attending the class for young marrieds; they have great day trips and fun activities." "My husband and I go whenever we can; we like the new pastor!"

Again, no mention of "worship" which, of course, does not mean it is not important to them; its simply not their first thought. Young parents will begin to realize that they want their children to have a religious experience and will say "We go because the Sunday school program is fantastic." "We want our kids to learn about Jesus and the Bible." "We go because the youth program provides great opportunities for our kids to learn about living a spiritual life and how they can help others through mission." "We have met some really nice folks at that church; the people are very friendly."

At some point either during or after this period, something wonderful happens! Someone will say with faithful authority, "I go to church to worship God!" We can see the light in their eyes and the radiance in their smile. "I come to worship my Lord and to learn how to live like Him." In N.T. Wright's book, For All God's Worth we learn that the two purposes of the church are *worship* and *mission*. Of course, this is no surprise, but going to church to worship is rarely expressed until people have had the opportunity to witness their own faith journey through prayer, Bible study, spiritually conceived sermons, beautiful music and living in community with other Christians. They then feel confident to share the *real* reason they go to church, to WORSHIP!

### ON A PERSONAL NOTE

 Dearest Friends and Family of Newhall First Pres,  
I have been so uplifted by the abundance of cards, flowers, phone calls, visits, e-mails, gifts, and text messages from all of you! Jesus' guiding hand has been healing me as I have been recovering at a skilled nursing facility and. Your continued prayers and caring thoughts have truly been a source of comfort and strength for me. Thank you! Blessings and hugs, Chi Kanagi

 Marilyn Chase has asked us to also express her gratitude for all the prayers, cards, calls and visits during her recovery from knee surgery.

### WE ARE GOING TO TRY A NEW CHANGE IN OUR WORSHIP THIS SUMMER

Change can be disrupting to families, schedules, businesses, and even churches, but it also can be opportunity. Change can also be an opportunity to reapply ourselves in new ways that can lead to new discoveries, help us evaluate our effectiveness, and open new possibilities in our lives.

For some people CHANGE may seem like a difficult challenge. We are proud of our worship at Newhall Presbyterian, and some may suggest that there's NO NEED TO CHANGE. I am reminded of a Calvin and Hobbes comic strip I once read: *As they're walking in the snow, Hobbes, Calvin's stuffed tiger, asks: "Did you make any resolutions for the New Year?" Calvin comes unwound and says: "No! I'm fine just the way I am! Why should I change? In fact, I think it's high time the world started to change to suit ME! I don't see why I should do all the changing around here. If the New Year requires resolutions, I say it's up to everyone else, not me! I don't need to improve! Everyone ELSE does!" He takes a breath and then asks "How about you? Did you make any resolutions?" Hobbes has this flabbergasted look on his face and says, "Well, I had resolved to be less offended by human nature, but I think I blew it already."*

I also remember a story that reminds us that sometimes change can show us opportunities to MAKE THINGS BETTER. *There was once a king who owned a diamond of which he was justly proud. By accident, the costly gem sustained a deep scratch. The king was sorely grieved. He summoned his court jewelers to repair the stone, but none was able to do so. Then a wise man stepped forward and asked to try his luck with the gem. The king consented. After a few days, the wise man returned. He was unable to erase the scratch, but instead had etched onto the stone the image of a rose, using the scratch as the stem.*

Our Session has just proposed a new Worship pattern for our church family for the Summer of 2015. **We will be moving our Contemporary Worship (currently meeting at 10:45) to a one-hour service from 5pm to 6pm on Sunday nights.** We will begin this new worship service on July 5, 2015 and continue through October 4, 2015. It will still have our wonderful 2<sup>nd</sup> Service Band and many of our contemporary service characteristics, but it will allow us to try some new worship approaches. The evening service will also offer a different sermon from the morning in case you would like to attend both services.

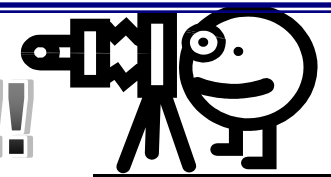
**Also, for those who need a little more time to prepare for morning worship, we will be moving our Traditional Service to 10am on Sunday mornings.** This will also begin on July 5, 2015 and continue through October 4, 2015. We will be evaluating the effectiveness of such a change throughout the summer to determine whether it helps our worshipping family or not. In either regard it will be a new (and possibly a fun and refreshing) chance for us to change things up a little for the summer.

Please join our Session and Worship Committee in praying for this new and exciting idea. We will be welcoming all comments as we progress through this summer experiment.

Blessings as we Risk and Change,

Pastor Bill

### PICTURE THIS!!!



Jack and Barbara Irwin have a new grandchild, Chloe Jane, born April 23rd to their daughter Maggie and Matt Bosch in Brighton, Michigan. She is lovely and calm, and her big brothers are eager for her to come home so they can play with her. Max is 6 1/2 and Ben is 5, and they have lots of Batman Legos, monster and dragon figures, and books that they have written. They know Chloe will discover all that stuff is 'really cool' too!

Maggie and Chloe Bosch

